



**Connecticut Republican Party**  
321 Ellis Street | Building 17 | Suite 501  
New Britain, Connecticut 06051  
860-826-7378 (office) | 860-826-2742 (fax)



Testimony of Chris Healy  
Connecticut Republican Party Chairman  
February 18, 2009  
Government Administration and Elections Committee

For your review, please find testimony for the following bills before your committee:

**Senate Bill 910 - AAC Permanent Absentee Ballot Affiliation**

Assuming that all privacy issues could be guaranteed with severe penalties for those who violate these protections, we would view SB 910 favorably for those voters who are permanently constrained from voting.

**Senate Bill 911 – AAC Voters Who Change Party Affiliation**

There is no demonstrated need to shorten the time period before a change in party affiliation is officially sanctioned.

**Senate Bill 913 – AAC United State Senate Vacancies**

This legislation is totally unnecessary. The current law allows for an orderly filling of the vacancy and for a subsequent election.

**Senate Joint No. 42 - Amending the Constitution to Allow Early Voting**

**SJ 43 Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Concerning Voting by Absentee Ballot**

Both of these resolutions are opposed by many members of the Republican Party. There is no reason to place the voting requirements and procedures in the Connecticut Constitution. There are plenty of laws and safe guards concerning who is eligible to vote and under what circumstances that people may vote.

**HB 5012 AAC – Implementing Early Voting in Connecticut**

This bill is the classic camel's nose under the tent. By eliminating all requirements for absentee ballots, Connecticut would embark on a classic early voting format. We are opposed to this legislation because voting is both a right and responsibility and we don't need to dilute that

sacred right simply because we think a voter are being put out. Voting requires effort, to register, to be informed and to get to the polling place on the first Tuesday following the first Monday. Voting is an American experience that we engage after collecting the information from our candidates, organizations and political parties. Connecticut is a small state, so issues of logistics and long lines are not pertinent.

The current laws allow for reasonable reasons to qualify for an absentee ballot and for those ballots to be accounted for.

#### **HB 5825 - AA Establishing a No-Fault Provisional Ballot Law**

#### **HB 6435 - AAC Election Day Registration**

These proposals would greatly increase instances of voter fraud. It is totally unnecessary to our elective process. If a citizen does not take interest in registering to vote through a variety of methods available to them, then it is not appropriate for these voters to present themselves on the day of an Election as a voter. Under current law, registering to vote is easier than renting a DVD.

But unlike a DVD, there will be little way in tracking same day registrants - whether these voters are indeed qualified or have voted elsewhere under this provisional format. Election workers and volunteers are in short supply now and there are too many important duties to carry on, to ensure a fair and accurate Election result.

In 2008, members of Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) succeeded in registering many Connecticut residents and thousands nationally who turned out to be ineligible. Imagine, if ACORN or other groups, who are often paid for the number of "voters" they register, were allowed to funnel voters into the polling booths on Election Day as provisional voters?

This is a problem created in the minds of those who don't believe citizens should register or encouraged to register and full participate in the electoral process. It is also an insult to those who do take the time to carry out the duties of an American citizen. We urge defeat of both of these bills.

If you have any questions on these bills, please don't hesitate to call me at 860-826-7378.